

Chinese Consensus Framework for the Ethical Collaboration in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Sectors

(Drafted in Dec. 2017)

CONTEXT

On October 29th, 2013, nine local pharmaceutical organizations co-held the “Launch Meeting of the Code of Ethics for Pharmaceutical Enterprises in China”, and co-signed an initiative for implementing the Code of Ethics for Pharmaceutical Enterprises in China, requiring all stakeholders in Chinese pharmaceutical industry to abide by relevant provisions. The nine organizations are China Pharmaceutical Industry Association (CPIA), China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products (CCCMHPIE), R&D-based Pharmaceutical Association Committee of China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment (RDPAC), China Pharmaceutical Innovation and Research Development Association (PhIRDA), China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM), China Association of Pharmaceutical Commerce (CAPC), China Nonprescription Medicines Association (CNMA), China Pharmaceutical Enterprises Development Promote Association (CPEP), and China Pharmaceutical Enterprises Culture Construction Association (CPECCA).

In 2015, eight more associations signed the above-mentioned initiative. The eight associations are All-China Chamber of Commerce for Medical and Pharmaceutical Industries (CMP), China Association for Medical Devices Industry (CAMDI), China National Pharmaceutical Packaging Association (CNPPA), China Medical Education Association (CMEA), Chinese Pharmaceutical Enterprises Association (CPEA), China Pharmaceutical Association of Plant Engineering (CPAPE), China Medicinal Biotech Association (CMBA), and China Quality Association for Pharmaceuticals (CQAP). So far, 17 pharmaceutical organizations have joined together in the movement of promoting the Code of Ethics for Pharmaceutical Enterprises in China.

Chinese Medical Association (CMA), Chinese Pharmaceutical Association (CPA), Chinese Medical Doctor Association (CMDA) and Chinese Hospital Association (CHA) have also reached a consensus, trying to reach a convergence among their own codes of practices.

Purpose

The government agencies related with Chinese health system, organizations in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors, and health care professionals’ associations, etc. (hereafter referred to as “the Parties”) endorse this *Chinese Consensus Framework for the Ethical Collaboration in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device*

Sectors (hereafter referred to as “the Framework”) to guide and strengthen interactions among pharmaceutical and medical device enterprises of production and sales and their industry associations, health care professionals, and government agencies, and to build trust among the Parties, based on the APEC Principles developed for the biopharmaceutical and medical device sectors.

1. Design mechanisms to facilitate open communication and interaction among the Parties;
2. Promote the mutual development and/or alignment of codes of ethics among the Parties based on the present consensus framework and the existing legal system, as well as the experience drawn from the mature codes of practice in pharmaceutical industry, and strengthen public confidence in them;
3. Develop the capacity-building and training programs among the Parties;
4. Create an environment to promote the early identification of and collaboration on shared challenges, in order to have authentic discussions about improving health care and patient outcomes.

COMMITMENT

1. People-Oriented

People and healthcare are our first priority, so we will work together to ensure that public health benefits are at the core of all activities. Through collaboration under the Framework, the Parties will embrace high standard ethical practices to advance health care.

2. Strengthened Collaboration

Interactions among the Parties are always ethical, legitimate, appropriate and professional. The Parties are committed to collaboration in implementing the APEC Principles developed for the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors in a manner that is transparent and that aims to inspire trust, deliver greater benefits and services to people’s health. The collaboration among the Parties will drive health care innovation and generate improved health care outcomes.

3. Respecting Differences

All activities of the Parties should respect diversities in culture, gender and background without any discrimination.

Mechanism

1. Capacity Building & Training

Strengthen capacity-building and professional trainings by learning the experience from the advanced training programs of pharmaceutical industry, promoting the capacity training and test schemes, strengthening the management of MRs and other practitioners, so that more related professionals will have access to the code of ethics

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by their learning to improve their ethic awareness, which will help them better implement the code of ethics in their daily work.

Establish and optimize virtual training systems, with the aim of enhancing and improving the capacity-building of related professionals continuously.

2. Conduct Restriction

Develop clear code of ethics to build trust and strengthen collaboration among the Parties. The Parties commit not to promote improper inducements within the supply chain, prescription, dispensation, or use of pharmaceutical and medical device products, and abide by the high standard code of conduct and ethical standards of pharmaceutical industry.

3. Timely Updates

The provisional plan is to hold an annual meeting of senior representatives from the Parties to discuss implementation of the Framework. During the meeting, the Parties will develop a joint work plan that details all activities to strengthen ethical practices. The Framework is a living document, and other organizations in relevant sectors are welcome to endorse it.

4. Accountability

The Parties will continue to develop the Framework and ensure its implementation. Systems to educate our members and to report and act on breaches may be established to support the implementation of the code of ethics.

The Parties should abide by the values of the code of ethics and take necessary responsibilities to protect the integrity of our organizations and professions in a professional manner. Any activity that may lead to benefit conflict or breaches should be avoided.

ENDORSEMENT

The Framework is endorsed and signed by the Parties indicated. The Parties have a mutual interest to ensure that the collaboration among pharmaceutical and medical device enterprises of production and sales and their industry associations, health care professionals and government agencies are based on ethical and responsible decisions.

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